



Hip-Hop Theater Festival: Washington, D.C. 2008
Presented by the DC Commission on the Arts & Humanities
July 8 – July 12

Tuesday, July 8

6:00 PM

Brave New Voices College Tour

Hosted by Sonia Sanchez with Chinaka Hodge, the DC Writers Corps Slam Team and TriFlava.
Kennedy Center Millennium Stage :: 2700 F Street, NW

Join HHTF at the Millennium Stage for the very best in youth poetry. Hosted by the legendary Sonia Sanchez, this special evening will feature poets from the Brave New Voices College Tour and the DC Writers Corps Slam Team. "We must hear the voices and have the dreams of those who came before us, and we must keep them with us in a very real sense. This will keep us centered. This will help us to maintain our understanding of the job we must do." -- Sonia Sanchez

Wednesday, July 9

7:00 PM

Hip-Hop Theater Shorts I

Dream City Theater Group, Morganics, Nicole Klaymoon and Baba Israel
Studio Theatre :: 1501 14th Street, NW

Southside

Performed by Dream City Theater Group, written by John Muller, directed by Michael Baron In Southside, a 17-year old student confronts the reality of spending the rest of his life in jail after he shoots and kills the neighborhood bully. Southside gives voice to DC's younger generation and poses the question, "Can we as a community stop violence?"

Crouching B-Boy, Hidden Dreadlocks

Performed by Morganics, an autobiographical tale from the beginning of Sydney's Hip-Hop scene to performing at the Rocksteady Crew Anniversary in New York. This one-man show draws from his experience working in jails, community centers and isolated Aboriginal communities all over Australia.

The Sixth Vowel

Written & performed by Nicole Klaymoon, directed by Kamilah Forbes, choreographed by Rennie Harris. The Sixth Vowel tells the story of a 5th grader with an intuitive connection to a spirit world who is labeled mentally disabled by her teachers. The play interweaves comedy, theater, spoken word, video, and dance.

Boom Bap Meditations

Written & performed by Baba Israel, directed by Morganics, with music by Yako 440. Boom Bap Meditations follows the journey of Baba Israel from his native New York to his mother's homeland of Australia. Watch this white boy discover Hip-Hop and earn his stripes as a Hip-Hop performer and educator as he morphs from character to character. Backed by Yako 440, Baba confronts a history of white appropriation of black music and culture while celebrating the tangible connections made by music across the color line.

9:30 PM

Hip-Hop Theater Shorts II

Sol y Soul

Marc Bamuthi Joseph

Studio Theatre :: 1501 14th Street, NW

Elegies in the Key of Funk

Written & performed by Sage Morgan Hubbard, Margaux Delotte-Bennett, Cherie Latson, Tri-Flava, Sahil Farooqi & others, directed & conceived by Regie Cabico and Sage Morgan Hubbard. Spinning William Carlos Williams' poetry of plums and Elizabeth Bishop's triolet of loss to a spoken word play of regret in the post 9-11 decade of gentrification. Sol y Soul ensemble looks at death with a collage of funk songs, neo-futurist two-minute plays and poetic character monologues. The play climaxes with a mad scientist that created a pink atomic elephant that will destroy the world and you have 24 hours to live . . . Go!

The Spoken World

Written & performed by Marc Bamuthi Joseph. The Spoken World features excerpts from Marc Bamuthi Joseph's evening length works Word Becomes Flesh, Scourge and the break/s. Employing theater, spoken word, and several dance styles including West-African, tap, and hip-hop, Joseph takes you on a journey through fatherhood, the motherland and planet Hip-Hop. His work has been described as everything from "electrifying" (*The Houston Chronicle*), to "ever-elegant" (*The Washington Post*), and in 2003 compelled the *Seattle Times* to name him their "cutting edge performer of the year".

Thursday, July 10

12:00 - 1:30 PM

Roundtable Discussion: Civic Engagement and Hip-Hop Arts & Culture

Mead Theater Lab at Flashpoint :: 916 G Street, NW

In this election year we have put together a panel discussion with national artists, activists, politicians, youth and scholars about the role of civic engagement and its intersection with Hip-Hop arts and culture. The discussion will focus on moving from awareness to action; the building of communities to helping them heal; arts engagement in civic life. The panel will explore the many ways Hip-Hop arts and culture has created new platforms for civic participation and showcase examples of art-based community engagement. Opening remarks by Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton.

7:00 PM

The Word Begins

Studio Theatre :: 1501 14th Street, NW

Written by Sekou tha Misfit & Steve Connell. An exciting journey of two young men struggling to come to terms with belief and morality in America today. Taking on race relations, religion, sexuality, love and the power of mass communication, Sekou & Steve offer an extraordinary refreshing performance of spoken word meets drama meets sketch comedy meets Hip-Hop.

9:30 PM

Hip-Hop Theater Shorts I

Dream City Theater Group, Organics, Nicole Klaymoon and Baba Israel

Studio Theatre :: 1501 14th Street, NW

Friday, July 11

3:00 – 10:00 PM

Words Beats & Life presents The Freshest of All Times: B-Boy Jam

St. Stephens Church :: 1525 Newton Street, NW

Join us for the inaugural Words Beats & Life B-Boy Jam, Freshest of All Times. This day-long event will feature b-boy crews from throughout the U.S. competing for cash and prizes. This event includes a special screening of Planet B-Boy, a new documentary about the global phenomena of b-boying.

7:00 PM

The Word Begins by Sekou tha Misfit & Steve Connell

Studio Theatre :: 1501 14th Street, NW

8:00 PM

Jack Ya Body Dance Series curated by Mason Rhynes Productions

Dance Place :: 3225 8th Street, NE

The much-anticipated Jack Ya Body Dance Series features Boogie Bots, Maia Maiden Works, Urban Impact, Aysha Upchurch, DJ 2-Tone Jones and other special guests.

10:00 PM

Jack Ya Body After Party

Chief Ike's Mambo Room :: 1725 Columbia Road, NW

After the Jack Ya Body Dance Series, we guarantee you'll want to move something yourself! Join us at Chief Ike's Mambo Room and get down with us.

Saturday, July 12

12:00 – 4:00 PM

Words Beats & Life Presents

Step Into A World: DC Urban Arts Academy Open House & BBQ

Benning Park Recreation Center :: 53rd & Fitch Street, SE

Join HHTF and Words Beats & Life for workshops, student exhibitions and swimming. Step Into a World will feature the work of more than 100 D.C. area youth from the DC Urban Arts Academy. Activities include DJ workshops, graffiti mural painting, b-boying/girling, MC workshops, jewelry design, fashion and chess. There is something for everyone.

7:00 PM

Hip-Hop Theater Shorts II

Sol y Soul

Marc Bamuthi Joseph

Studio Theatre :: 1501 14th Street, NW

9:30 PM

Universes

Studio Theatre :: 1501 14th Street, NW

Universes is an ensemble company of multi-disciplined writers and performers who fuse poetry, theater, jazz, Hip-Hop, politics, down home blues and Spanish boleros to create moving, challenging and entertaining theatrical works. The group breaks the bounds of traditional theater to create their own brand. Inviting old and new generations of theater practitioners as well as theater goers to reshape the face of American Theater.

10:00 PM – 2:00 AM

Hip-Hop Theater Festival Wrap Party: Waxploitation: Lost in Transit

Red Door :: 1129 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE

Lost in Transit brings national and international visual artists to the Hip-Hop Theater Festival to present mixed-media works on vinyl records. Artists will create works that represent their homes, current beliefs or inspirations. Since its inception into the burgeoning Hip-Hop subculture of the late 70's and a decline in record sales with the advent of the mp3 file, the Vinyl Record maintains its relevancy by becoming a conduit for self-expression. Featuring Sharon Bell, Andy T, Decoy and many more.

All events and performances throughout the festival are free and open to the public.

Funded in part by the DC Commission on the Arts & Humanities, an agency supported in part by the National Endowment for the Arts.

Hip-Hop Theater Festival is made possible through generous support from AT&T Foundation, The Union Square Arts Awards, The Ford Foundation, The Nathan Cummings Foundation, Rush Philanthropic Arts Foundation, Time Warner, Pennsylvania Performing Arts on Tour, the National Endowment for the Arts, New York State Council on the Arts, NYC Department of Cultural Affairs, Curtis McGraw Foundation, The New World Foundation and individual supporters like you. HHTF is a participant in the New Generations Program, funded by Doris Duke Charitable Trust/The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and administered by Theatre Communications Group, the national organization for American Theatre. HHTF is also supported in part by Artography: Arts in a Changing America, a grant program of Leveraging Investments in Creativity, funded by the Ford Foundation.